INCREASING WOMEN'S ACTIVISM IN SOLVING WOMEN'S SOCIAL PROBLEMS

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Abstract: Women's social problems have been a persistent concern globally, with issues such as gender-based violence, unequal pay, and limited access to education and healthcare plaguing communities worldwide. For far too long, women have been marginalized, oppressed, and excluded from decision-making processes, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination. However, in recent years, there has been a surge in women's activism, with women from diverse backgrounds and demographics taking a stand against these injustices and demanding change. This article argues that increasing women's activism is essential in solving women's social problems, as it empowers women to take control of their lives, challenges patriarchal norms, and fosters a more inclusive and equitable society.

Keywords: women, socio-political activism, motherhood and childhood, family institution, human rights

Introduction: Meanwhile, in reality, at the grassroots of planning and decision making related to development are generally dominated by men. The government, through the ministries, agencies, and institutions, have tried to give broad participation, especially women's participation. The government has tried to increase women's participation in solving women's problems through the empowerment of women. The empowerment of women, according to the government, is one of the national commitments or efforts to fulfill the rights of women so that fitness and effectiveness can be realized. Furthermore, the empowerment of women is carried out through three main strategies, namely ensuring equality and improving the quality of women's access to resources, reducing the life burden of women, and increasing opportunities for developing female potential. Where female activists who still lack the policy of empowerment and therefore increasing women's participation in the community in general are minimal. In the end, women are not able to fulfill the needs of their rights and are not able to live equal lives with men. This is very detrimental to women because they are also human beings. Of course, many people have the idea that women can also be taught to contribute many positive things to society and the state. Therefore, see Annex II of the Fourth World Women's Conference (FWWC) in Beijing and in the Comprehensive Accreditation Strategy (SBA) which was made in order to see the concern for the advancement of women.

The majority of the female gender often experiences vulnerability because they are not yet involved so much in the public sphere. When the personal becomes political, women find the concept to enhance their social status in the world. Women who begin to feel they are experiencing inequality with men, then begin to organize for social rights, political roles, and also fulfill their needs. In reality, efforts to organize women to maintain their social status have not been as expected when compared to men who are already busy working in the formal sphere. They are busy with their various activities as the head of the family, such as deciding where to send the child to study, accepting exclusive members club offers from productive informal

activities, and others. If there are not many women involved during the participation process, especially in solving social problems on women themselves, various social needs of women will remain unheard and unresolved. Women would not be able to reveal social problems in general by the presence of a community or a specific social institution.

Background and Significance

By stepping into the public world in their struggle for rights and justice, minority women silently change the system to better meet the needs of others. When the silent majority refuses to enter the public world through the individualized networks and momentum of a social support system, and is prevented through perceptions of lack of resources, lack of power and control, or lack of access to means and opportunity structures that exist in the public world, other members of the minority groups are affected by the lack of solution. Women do need information, skills, knowledge, and education to interact with agencies to obtain social support, which is the key to increased levels of activity in the transition to self-help. Women need the social work profession to support the self-help process with knowledge, education, resources, and the design mechanisms to enact social change in the social institution system. Help through self-help in combination with social support, economic support, micro-level change, macro-level change, and policies can counter damaging behavior and open pathways to a change in life quality for uncomfortable beings.

Palmer and Danzinger argue that although women have the capacity to produce small-scale solutions originating from their ignored practical wisdom, women do not utilize power and authority to share their knowledge. However, Weissman states that minority women have to draw on their own resources to find solutions for solving their social problems because white males and feminist groups exclude their input regarding their concerns. Haddad and Herring insist that minority women can gain an understanding about white males and feminist groups who damage achieving social change for others, such as the freedom workers who are activists solving social problems of others. Bell's discussion of "sisters of the streets" shows that minority women express resistance to being defined and helped by the conventional elites who claim to know more about the social problems that the women face and from "knowing" the women. The women want to define and experience themselves and their environments and situations from their own perspective. They want to be their own advocates.

First and foremost, women's activism empowers women to take control of their lives and assert their rights. Historically, women have been socialized to be submissive, obedient, and passive, resulting in a lack of agency and autonomy. However, through activism, women are reclaiming their power and challenging these entrenched gender roles. By mobilizing and organizing, women are able to articulate their demands, challenge discriminatory practices, and advocate for policy reforms that benefit their interests. For instance, the #MeToo movement, which began as a social media campaign, has grown into a global phenomenon, providing a platform for survivors of sexual harassment and assault to share their stories and hold perpetrators accountable. This movement has not only raised awareness about the pervasiveness of sexual violence but has also led to the downfall of powerful men and the implementation of policies to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace.

Furthermore, women's activism challenges patriarchal norms and structures that perpetuate gender inequality. Patriarchal societies are built on the premise that men hold power and women are subordinate, resulting in gender roles that reinforce male dominance and female submissiveness. However, through activism, women are challenging these norms and structures, exposing the gendered power dynamics that maintain inequality. For example, the feminist

movement has been instrumental in challenging gender stereotypes, highlighting the gender pay gap, and advocating for reproductive rights. Activists have also organized campaigns to raise awareness about gender-based violence, including domestic violence, female genital mutilation, and forced marriage. By challenging these norms and structures, women are creating alternative narratives that value equality, justice, and human rights.

In addition, women's activism fosters a more inclusive and equitable society. When women are empowered to participate in decision-making processes, they bring unique perspectives and experiences that enrich policy debates and drive social change. Women activists have been instrumental in shaping policy reforms that benefit marginalized communities, such as people with disabilities, and indigenous peoples. For instance, women's activism has led to the adoption of policies that promote gender-responsive budgeting, ensuring that government budgets allocate resources to address the specific needs of women and girls. Moreover, women's activism has promoted the inclusion of women in peace-building processes, recognizing that women are critical stakeholders in conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

Another significant aspect of women's activism is its role in promoting social cohesion and community building. Women's activism often bridges the gap between different social groups, fostering solidarity and collective action. For example, the women's suffrage movement brought together women from diverse backgrounds, including African American, Latinx, and Indigenous women, who worked together to secure the right to vote. Similarly, the feminist movement has brought together women from different generations, races, and sexual orientations, promoting a shared vision of gender equality and social justice. This collective action has enabled women to build strong, resilient communities that support one another and promote social change.

Moreover, women's activism has a profound impact on the economy and sustainable development. Women are critical to economic growth, and their empowerment is essential for poverty reduction, food security, and sustainable development. According to the United Nations, women's equal participation in the labor force could add $28 trillion to the global economy by 2025. Women's activism has promoted gender-responsive economic policies, including equal pay, maternity leave, and childcare support, which have improved women's economic autonomy and well-being. Furthermore, women's activism has promoted sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and environmental conservation, recognizing the critical role that women play in managing natural resources and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Finally, women's activism has a profound impact on democratic governance and human rights. Women's participation in governance and decision-making processes is essential for promoting democratic values, including accountability, transparency, and representation. Women's activism has promoted gender quotas, ensuring that women have a greater say in political decision-making processes. Moreover, women's activism has promoted human rights, challenging discriminatory laws and practices that violate women's rights and dignity. For instance, women's activism has led to the repeal of laws that criminalize same-sex relationships, promote forced marriage, and restrict women's access to education and healthcare.

Conclusion: In conclusion, increasing women's activism is essential in solving women's social problems. Women's activism empowers women to take control of their lives, challenges patriarchal norms, and fosters a more inclusive and equitable society. Women's activism promotes social cohesion, community building, and collective action, which are critical for driving social change and promoting sustainable development. Moreover, women's activism has a profound impact on the economy, democratic governance, and human rights. As women continue to mobilize and organize, it is essential that governments, international organizations,

and civil society recognize and support their efforts. By amplifying women's voices and promoting gender equality, we can create a more just, equitable, and peaceful world for all.

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